

$\frac{3}{4}$ Time

PUBLIC ART COLLECTION IDENTIFICATION SUMMARY



Number: 0010

Artist: Woitena, Ben (1942 -)

Title: 3/4 Time

Date: 1976

Type: Sculpture

Medium: Paint on Steel

Dimensions: H 15' x W 25' x D 10'

Foundry/Fabricator: Artist

Location/Environment: Memorial Park Esplanade, Outdoors

Provenance: Given to the City of Houston by the artist in 1984

Historical Background

Subject

$\frac{3}{4}$ Time was a critical success at the exhibition, "Monumental Sculpture: Houston 1975, River Oaks Bank & Trust Invitational". This exhibition's purpose was to stimulate public, private and corporate interest in monumental sculpture. Not any of the pieces were for sale.

After showing the piece in several venues the piece was permanently installed on a esplanade in Memorial Park in 1984.

Artist

Ben Woitena was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1942. He received a B.F.A. from the University of Texas at Austin (UT) and received an M.F.A. from the University of Southern California. Woitena has been the subject of several documentaries and has taught at many different schools in California and Texas.

Physical Description

$\frac{3}{4}$ Time is a monumental, abstract, smooth surfaced, steel sculpture that is painted red (originally, it was painted a deep magenta).

Woitena welded steel into a self-supportive geometric construction that created triangles, trapezoids and parallel lines using positive and negative space. The sculpture consists of four parallel steel bands, diagonal to the ground at different levels, with welded ornamentation juxtaposed against airy, open metal bands.

The resulting sculpture is a highly successful and elegant piece that fits with its natural environment in the park.

Restoration / Conservation

$\frac{3}{4}$ Time was restored in April of 1996.